

**FACT SHEET**  
**Guard at Home Program**  
**Department of Economic Development**  
**Division of Workforce Development**

**Summary**

- Governor Blunt has just signed a bill creating the ‘Guard at Home’ program that will help the spouses of Missouri Guard and Reserve troops who have been deployed.
- The bill, HB 1787, was co-sponsored by State Representatives Jack Jackson, Chair of the House Veterans Committee, and Joe Smith, also on the Veterans Committee; and State Senator Rob Mayer, of the Pensions, Veterans' Affairs and General Laws Committee.
- This pilot program will provide services to the families of veterans to address their immediate needs, and build a path to employment to help keep the family from falling into poverty while the family’s primary income earner is on active duty deployment.
- This program will be administered through the Department of Economic Development and will be funded through the federal workforce funds that support Missouri Career Centers.
- The program will have an effective date of July 1, 2006, and will be available to start serving families by August 1, 2006.

**Specifics**

- Those eligible for the program include the spouses of active duty National Guard or Reserve service members.
- Will assist returning National Guard troops with finding work in situations where an individual needs to rebuild business clientele or where an individual's job has been eliminated while he or she was deployed.
- Will help families where the primary income earner was called to active duty, the family's primary income is no longer available, the family is experiencing significant hardship due to financial burdens, and the family has no outside resources available to assist with such hardships.
- Services will be provided by qualified providers through local workforce investment boards. Services providers will be nationally-accredited community-based not-for-profit agencies which have significant experience in job training, placement, and social services to veterans, with connections to veteran organizations, and experience in the regions targeted for the program.
- Services will be available in the Central, Ozark, Kansas City area, Westcentral, Southwest, Southeast, and St Louis County workforce regions, because of the high concentration of military and National Guard reservists located in these areas. Other areas of the state can partner with targeted areas, or serve applicants with existing funds. See [www.ded.mo.gov/wfd](http://www.ded.mo.gov/wfd) for a map of Missouri’s Workforce Regions.
- Services will have a "first come--first serve" limit on intake.

**Benefits**

- Services may include:
  - Help paying daycare costs to pursue training and or employment
  - Help covering the costs of transportation to training and or employment
  - Vocational evaluation and counseling to help the individual choose a visible employment goal
  - Vocational training to acquire or upgrade skills needed to be marketable in the workforce
  - Paid internships and subsidized employment to train on the job
  - Job placement assistance
  - Financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from overdue bills due to reduced income after the deployment of a spouse
- Coordination with additional job seeker services that can be received in Missouri Career Centers and GreatHires.org.